

From: Weiner, Janet [Weiner.Janet@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2021 10:04:33 PM
To: Weiner, Janet [Weiner.Janet@epa.gov]
CC: OCSPP ALL [OCSPP_ALL@epa.gov]; Rahai, Jim [Rahai.Jim@epa.gov]; Swenson, Sarah [Swenson.Sarah@epa.gov]; Hummel, Natalie [Hummel.Natalie@epa.gov]; Wilbur, Donald [Wilbur.Donald@epa.gov]; Corbin, Mark [Corbin.Mark@epa.gov]; Barber, Delores [barber.delores@epa.gov]; Ricciardi, Rachel [Ricciardi.Rachel@epa.gov]; Koper, Christopher [Koper.Christopher@epa.gov]; Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge [muniz-ortiz.jorge@epa.gov]; Eckel, William [Eckel.William@epa.gov]; Liang, Yan Ling [Liang.YanLing@epa.gov]; Layne, Arnold [Layne.Arnold@epa.gov]; Wolf, Joel [Wolf.Joel@epa.gov]; Shamblen, Richard [Shamblen.Richard@epa.gov]; Sasidharan, Abhilash [sasidharan.abhilash@epa.gov]; Lee, Briana [Lee.Briana@epa.gov]; Pease, Anita [Pease.Anita@epa.gov]; Babcock, Amy [babcock.amy@epa.gov]; Lowit, Anna [Lowit.Anna@epa.gov]; Hathaway, Margaret [Hathaway.Margaret@epa.gov]; Bongard, Christian [bongard.christian@epa.gov]; Pugh, Brittany [Pugh.Brittany@epa.gov]; Elwood, Holly [Elwood.Holly@epa.gov]; Garred, Shawn [garred.shawn@epa.gov]; Gray, Shawna [Gray.Shawna@epa.gov]; Jones, LindaV [Jones.LindaV@epa.gov]; Bartow, Susan [Bartow.Susan@epa.gov]; Zinn, Nicole [Zinn.Nicole@epa.gov]; Kidwell, Jessica [kidwell.jessica@epa.gov]; Oliver, Victoria [oliver.victoria@epa.gov]; Sullivan, Ryan [sullivan.ryan@epa.gov]; Moore, Deon [Moore.Deon@epa.gov]; Lowe, Kelly [Lowe.Kelly@epa.gov]; Friedman, Dana [Friedman.Dana@epa.gov]; Shortt, Veronica [Shortt.Veronica@epa.gov]; Wait, Monica [Wait.Monica@epa.gov]; McBride, Sharon Y [Mcbride.Sharony@epa.gov]; Wire, Cindy [Wire.Cindy@epa.gov]; Filcek, Kimberly [Filcek.Kimberly@epa.gov]; Kraka, Ernest [Kraka.Ernest@epa.gov]; Sirmons, Chandler [Sirmons.Chandler@epa.gov]; Korthauer, Kathryn [korthauer.kathryn@epa.gov]; O'Neill, Sandra [ONeill.Sandra@epa.gov]; Au, Sarah [au.sarah@epa.gov]; Butler, Sarah [butler.sarah@epa.gov]; Glikes, Michael [Glikes.Michael@epa.gov]; Lewis, Delores [Lewis.Delores@epa.gov]; Knott, Steven [Knott.Steven@epa.gov]; Orrick, Greg [Orrick.Greg@epa.gov]; Giles-Parker, Cynthia [Giles-Parker.Cynthia@epa.gov]; McNamara, Katelan (Katie) [McNamara.Katelan@epa.gov]; Joyce, Jessica [joyce.jessica@epa.gov]; Scheltema, Christina [Scheltema.Christina@epa.gov]; Dixon, Diane [Dixon.Diane@epa.gov]; Latham, John [Latham.John@epa.gov]; Pittman, Julian [pittman.julian@epa.gov]; Schneider, Bernard - ARS [bernard.schneider@usda.gov]; Hrdy, David [Hrdy.David@epa.gov]; Kohn, Jeffrey [Kohn.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Pham, Thao [Pham.Thao@epa.gov]; Hodde, Whitney [Hodde.Whitney@epa.gov]; Vieira, John [Vieira.John@epa.gov]; Sayer, Andrew [Sayer.Andrew@epa.gov]; Bachman, Stephanie [Bachman.Stephanie@epa.gov]; Osterweil, Elyse [Osterweil.Elyse@epa.gov]; Jones, RDavid [Jones.Rdavid@epa.gov]; Snyderman, Megan [Snyderman.Megan@epa.gov]; Xi, Cally [Xi.Cally@epa.gov]; Cerrelli, Susanne [Cerrelli.Susanne@epa.gov]; Lantz, Tracy [Lantz.Tracy@epa.gov]; Jones, Erin [jones.erin@epa.gov]; Smith, ThomasA [smith.thomasa@epa.gov]; Witkin, Steve [Witkin.Steve@epa.gov]; Wagman, Michael [Wagman.Michael@epa.gov]; Javier, Julie [Javier.Julie@epa.gov]; Harwood, Douglas (Ethan) [harwood.douglas@epa.gov]; Taylor, Christopher M. [Taylor.Christopher.M@epa.gov]; Biggio, Patricia [biggio.patricia@epa.gov]; Victor, Meg [Victor.Meg@epa.gov]; Feitel, Alexandra [feitel.alexandra@epa.gov]; Melendez, Gonzalo [melendez.gonzalo@epa.gov]; Corona, Carlos [Corona.Carlos@epa.gov]; Kurker, Victoria [kurker.victoria@epa.gov]; Cestone, Paul [Cestone.Paul@epa.gov]; Keigwin, Richard [Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov]; Kinn, Alison [Kinn.Alison@epa.gov]; Kiely, Timothy [Kiely.Timothy@epa.gov]; Corbin, Derek [Corbin.Derek@epa.gov]; Shuman, Amy [Shuman.Amy@epa.gov]; Taylor, Michele [Taylor.Michele@epa.gov]; Malloy, Ruth [malloy.ruth@epa.gov]; Wilkins, John [Wilkins.John@epa.gov]; Koehn, Kara [Koehn.Kara@epa.gov]; Jennings, Susan [Jennings.Susan@epa.gov]; Huston, Brandon [Huston.Brandon@epa.gov]; DeBell, Kevin [debell.kevin@epa.gov]; Kendall, Judith [Kendall.Judith@epa.gov]; Nako, Steve [Nako.Steve@epa.gov]; Wilson, Kimberly [wilson.kimberly@epa.gov]; Freedhoff, Michal [Freedhoff.Michal@epa.gov]; Sells, Dexter [Sells.Dexter@epa.gov]; Chun, Melissa [Chun.Melissa@epa.gov]; Biscoe, Melanie [Biscoe.Melanie@epa.gov]; Siciliano, CarolAnn [Siciliano.CarolAnn@epa.gov]; Nicome, Anthony [nicome.anthony@epa.gov]; Barrett, Dena [Barrett.Dena@epa.gov]; Mosby, Jackie [Mosby.Jackie@epa.gov]; Britt, Adrian [Britt.Adrian@epa.gov]; Stokes, Julia [Stokes.Julia@epa.gov]; Claude, Mary [Claude.Mary@epa.gov]; Pyne, Jaclyn [Pyne.Jaclyn@epa.gov]; Mendez, Elizabeth [Mendez.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Browning, Cynthia [Browning.Cynthia@epa.gov]; Kliminsky, Alexander [Kliminsky.Alexander@epa.gov]; Weissenborn, Lauren [Weissenborn.Lauren@epa.gov]; Zuber, Mohammed [Zuber.Mohammed@epa.gov]; Dayton-Powell, Jeanne [dayton-powell.jeanne@epa.gov]; Dandridge, Erin [dandridge.erin@epa.gov]; Geredien, Ross [Geredien.Ross@epa.gov]; Tellez, Peter [Tellez.Peter@epa.gov]; Brunsman, Lori [Brunsmann.Lori@epa.gov]; Childs, Elizabeth [childs.elizabeth@epa.gov]; Emerson, Vanessa [emerson.vanessa@epa.gov]; Reeves, Craig [Reeves.Craig@epa.gov]; Porter, Brooke [Porter.Brooke@epa.gov]; Villanueva, Philip [Villanueva.Philip@epa.gov]; Smith, Carolyn [smith.carolyn@epa.gov]; Otte, Briana [otte.briana@epa.gov]; Picone, Kaitlin [Picone.Kaitlin@epa.gov]; Shelat, Shalu [Shelat.Shalu@epa.gov]; Romanovsky, Anna [Romanovsky.Anna@epa.gov]; Phang, Whang [Phang.Whang@epa.gov]; Wright, Tracy

[Wright.Tracy@epa.gov]; Cordero, Cesar [Cordero.Cesar@epa.gov]; Gaona, Sandra [Gaona.Sandra@epa.gov]; Burkhardt, Stephanie [Burkhardt.Stephanie@epa.gov]; Becker, Jonathan [Becker.Jonathan@epa.gov]; Bergquist, Peter [Bergquist.Peter@epa.gov]; Bloom, Jill [Bloom.Jill@epa.gov]; Brunner, Rachel [brunner.rachel@epa.gov]; Karn, Elizabeth [Karn.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Turley, Alexandra [Turley.Alexandra@epa.gov]; Piper, Maya [Piper.Maya@epa.gov]; Hopkins, Yvette [Hopkins.Yvette@epa.gov]; Venkateshwara, Lata [Venkateshwara.Lata@epa.gov]; Shrestha, Srijana [Shrestha.Srijana@epa.gov]; Kirk, Aerin [Kirk.Aerin@epa.gov]; Nolan, Emily [Nolan.Emily@epa.gov]; Crawford, Lydia [Crawford.Lydia@epa.gov]; Scott, Megan [Scott.Megan@epa.gov]; Adams, Melanie [Adams.Melanie@epa.gov]; Kramer, George [Kramer.George@epa.gov]; Nelsen, Ashley [Nelsen.Ashley@epa.gov]; Stoner, Nora [Stoner.Nora@epa.gov]; Niesen, Meghann [Niesen.Meghann@epa.gov]; Peterson, Steven R. [peterson.stevenr@epa.gov]; Suek, Nicholas [suek.nicholas@epa.gov]; Leszczyszyn, Natalia [Leszczyszyn.Natalia@epa.gov]; Nolan, Michelle [nolan.michelle@epa.gov]; Shuler, Jamey [Shuler.Jamey@epa.gov]; Tomassoni, Guy [Tomassoni.Guy@epa.gov]; Wray, Austin [Wray.Austin@epa.gov]; Eberius, Rachel [Eberius.Rachel@epa.gov]; Dobert, Skyler [dobert.skyler@epa.gov]; McFarley, Heather [McFarley.Heather@epa.gov]; Hassan, Ume [Hassan.Ume@epa.gov]; Forbes, Thomas [Forbes.Thomas@epa.gov]; Urich, Matthew [Urich.Matthew@epa.gov]; Varns, Theodore [Varns.Theodore@epa.gov]; Rutsch, Linda [Rutsch.Linda@epa.gov]; Hauff, Amanda [Hauff.Amanda@epa.gov]; Graham, Elisha [Graham.Elisha@epa.gov]; Francois, Isaac [Francois.Isaac@epa.gov]; Garber, Kristina [Garber.Kristina@epa.gov]; Fonseca, Silvina [Fonseca.Silvina@epa.gov]; Hawkins, Monica [Hawkins.Monica@epa.gov]; Ryan, Emily [ryan.emily@epa.gov]; Tyler, Tom [Tyler.Tom@epa.gov]; Lazarus, Rebecca [lazarus.rebecca@epa.gov]; McShan, Danielle [mcshan.danielle@epa.gov]; Tweed, Benjamin [Tweed.Benjamin@epa.gov]; JR Isaacson [jisaacson@ainterpreting.com]; Romano, Laura [Romano.Laura@epa.gov]; Milone, Joe [Milone.Joe@epa.gov]; Sellars, Shayna [sellars.shayna@epa.gov]; Cyran, Carissa [Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov]; Guthrie, Christina [Guthrie.Christina@epa.gov]; Meyers, Robert [Meyers.Robert@epa.gov]; Abdul-wali, Aida [Abdul-Wali.Aida@epa.gov]; Pates, John [Pates.John@epa.gov]; Hou, Ariel [Hou.Ariel@epa.gov]; Brown, Sheila L. [Brown.Sheila.L@epa.gov]; Christ, Lisa [Christ.Lisa@epa.gov]; Lloyd, Matthew [Lloyd.Matthew@epa.gov]; Breithaupt, James [Breithaupt.James@epa.gov]; Burnett, Gina [Burnett.Gina@epa.gov]; Harrison, Elton [Harrison.Elton@epa.gov]; Nguyen, Khue [Nguyen.Khue@epa.gov]; Chism, William [Chism.Bill@epa.gov]; Murasaki, Seiichi [Murasaki.Seiichi@epa.gov]; Manupella, Matthew [Manupella.Matthew@epa.gov]; Negron-Encarnacion, Ideliz [Negron-Encarnacion.Ideliz@epa.gov]; Amati, Andrea [Amati.Andrea@epa.gov]; Montague, Kathryn V. [Montague.Kathryn@epa.gov]

Subject: OCSPP SEPM Event: "Stories of the Holocaust"

Attachments: Doc for OCSPP Holocaust event.pdf

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: 4/14/2021 2:00:00 PM

End: 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Required Attendees: Weiner, Janet

Optional Attendees: OCSPP ALL; Rahai, Jim; Swenson, Sarah; Sellars, Shayna; Hummel, Natalie; Cyran, Carissa; Wilbur, Donald; Corbin, Mark; Barber, Delores; Guthrie, Christina; Ricciardi, Rachel; Koper, Christopher; Meyers, Robert; Abdul-wali, Aida; Muniz-Ortiz, Jorge; Eckel, William; Liang, Yan Ling; Layne, Arnold; Wolf, Joel; Shamblen, Richard; Sasidharan, Abhilash; Lee, Briana; Pease, Anita; Pates, John; Babcock, Amy; Lowit, Anna; Hathaway, Margaret; Bongard, Christian; Pugh, Brittany; Hou, Ariel; Elwood, Holly; Garred, Shawn; Gray, Shawna; Brown, Sheila L.; Jones, LindaV; Bartow, Susan; Zinn, Nicole; Kidwell, Jessica; Oliver, Victoria; Sullivan, Ryan; Moore, Deon; Lowe, Kelly; Christ, Lisa; Friedman, Dana; Shortt, Veronica; Wait, Monica; McBride, Sharon Y; Wire, Cindy; Filcek, Kimberly; Kraka, Ernest; Sirmons, Chandler; Korthauer, Kathryn; Lloyd, Matthew; O'Neill, Sandra; Au, Sarah; Butler, Sarah; Glikes, Michael; Lewis, Delores; Knott, Steven; Orrick, Greg; Breithaupt, James; Giles-Parker, Cynthia; McNamara, Katelan (Katie); Joyce, Jessica; Scheltema, Christina; Dixon, Diane; Latham, John; Pittman, Julian; Burnett, Gina; Harrison, Elton; Schneider, Bernard - ARS; Hrady, David; Kohn, Jeffrey; Pham, Thao; Hodde, Whitney; Vieira, John; Sayer, Andrew; Bachman, Stephanie; Osterweil, Elyse; Jones, RDavid; Snyderman, Megan; Xi, Cally; Cerrelli, Susanne; Lantz, Tracy; Jones, Erin; Smith, ThomasA; Witkin, Steve; Wagman, Michael; Javier, Julie; Harwood, Douglas (Ethan); Taylor, Christopher M.; Nguyen, Khue; Biggio, Patricia; Victor, Meg; Feitel, Alexandra; Melendez, Gonzalo; Corona, Carlos; Kurker, Victoria; Cestone, Paul; Keigwin, Richard; Kinn, Alison; Kiely, Timothy; Corbin, Derek; Shuman, Amy; Taylor,

Michele; Malloy, Ruth; Wilkins, John; Koehn, Kara; Jennings, Susan; Huston, Brandon; DeBell, Kevin; Kendall, Judith; Nako, Steve; Wilson, Kimberly; Freedhoff, Michal; Sells, Dexter; Chun, Melissa; Biscoe, Melanie; Chism, William; Siciliano, CarolAnn; Nicome, Anthony; Barrett, Dena; Mosby, Jackie; Britt, Adrian; Murasaki, Seiichi; Stokes, Julia; Claude, Mary; Pyne, Jaclyn; Mendez, Elizabeth; Browning, Cynthia; Kliminsky, Alexander; Manupella, Matthew; Weissenborn, Lauren; Zuber, Mohammed; Dayton-Powell, Jeanne; Dandridge, Erin; Geredien, Ross; Tellez, Peter; Brunsman, Lori; Childs, Elizabeth; Emerson, Vanessa; Reeves, Craig; Porter, Brooke; Villanueva, Philip; Negrón-Encarnación, Ideliz; Smith, Carolyn; Otte, Briana; Picone, Kaitlin; Shelat, Shalu; Romanovsky, Anna; Phang, Whang; Wright, Tracy; Cordero, Cesar; Gaona, Sandra; Burkhardt, Stephanie; Becker, Jonathan; Bergquist, Peter; Amati, Andrea; Bloom, Jill; Brunner, Rachel; Karn, Elizabeth; Turley, Alexandra; Piper, Maya; Hopkins, Yvette; Venkateshwara, Lata; Shrestha, Srijana; Kirk, Aerin; Nolan, Emily; Crawford, Lydia; Scott, Megan; Adams, Melanie; Kramer, George; Nelsen, Ashley; Stoner, Nora; Niesen, Meghann; Peterson, Steven R.; Suek, Nicholas; Leszczyszyn, Natalia; Nolan, Michelle; Shuler, Jamey; Tomassoni, Guy; Wray, Austin; Eberius, Rachel; Dobert, Skyler; McFarley, Heather; Hassan, Ume; Forbes, Thomas; Urich, Matthew; Varns, Theodore; Rutsch, Linda; Hauff, Amanda; Montague, Kathryn V.; Graham, Elisha; Francois, Isaac; Garber, Kristina; Fonseca, Silvina; Hawkins, Monica; Ryan, Emily; Tyler, Tom; Lazarus, Rebecca; McShan, Danielle; Tweed, Benjamin; JR Isaacson; Romano, Laura; Milone, Joe

OCSPP's Special Emphasis Program warmly welcomes you to a virtual event

"Stories of the Holocaust"

in honor of

The Holocaust Days of Remembrance

Wednesday, April 14

From 10 to 11 am

Featuring Opening Remarks from Acting Assistant Administrator Michal Freedhoff

In preparation for a short exercise and discussion,
participants are requested to choose a number between 1 and 98

Participants will have the option to light a small candle
in memory and recognition of those lost to the Holocaust.

Several OCSPP employees responded with the following touching stories in response to my recent message asking for personal family remembrances of the Holocaust:

From Michael Wagman, OPP/EFED:

My father certainly has many stories, though he was very young, so most of them are passed down from his mother. The two that I'll relate now to you are his birth and when he and my grandmother left the ghetto of Lvov and escaped out of Poland.

My father, James Wagman, was born Christmas Day, 1938, before the war started, in Lvov, Poland. The date is important as apparently on Christmas Eve, the doctor told my grandmother that her baby was not alive and that he would need to operate to remove the dead fetus. He left and several nurses came in. They told my grandmother that they could detect a heartbeat and that the doctor was known to hate Jews and didn't want to bring them into the world. The nurses said that while he was off for Christmas, they would induce labor and send my grandmother and her child off before he came back.

In 1943, when my father was four or so, he and my grandmother lived in the Lvov ghetto. At that point, many Jews had already been sent to the camps (including my grandmother's parents), but there were still several thousand still left. My grandmother's sister-in-law was married to a Ukrainian SS officer. They somehow smuggled my grandmother and father out of the ghetto shortly before (possibly the day before) the entire ghetto was destroyed and the remaining Jews sent to labor and/or death camps. My father says one of his first memories is being carried out of the ghetto and seeing several hanged people. He and my grandmother stayed for a short time with her sister-in-law and husband before passage was acquired for them going through Poland,

Hungary and Bulgaria to safety in Turkey. Another of his earliest memories is being on a train during this escape and as a 4 or 5 year-old playing with German soldiers on the train and knowing that he had to pretend to have no fear of them, so they wouldn't suspect he was Jewish.

From Guynin Myers, OPS/IRMD:

I am not Jewish -- however, my mother's godfather was. His name was David White. His father was a jeweler in Poland and was killed by the Nazis. He, his mother and sister were then taken to the work camp. Shortly after arrival, they escaped from Auschwitz and came to America by ship. His mother was able to pay their passage to New York with gems she had sown in the hem of her dress.

My Uncle David moved to Chicago as a young man and married my aunt Pearl. He was my grandfather's best friend and attorney. My grandfather was an Alderman in Chicago during the early 60's (Alderman Benjamin F. Lewis). My Uncle David had an office in the Water Tower for many years until his retirement.

I remember asking my mom, when I was little, what was that on Uncle David's arm. She told me that was a tattoo. It was how the Germans kept account of the Jews that they put in concentration camps.

Voltaire said that those that can make us believe absurdities...can make us commit atrocities.

RIP Uncle David and Aunt Pearl.

From Michael Glikes, OPP/BPPD:

My grandparents (Morris and Gella Glikes) and my 3 year-old father (Erwin Glikes) fled Belgium when the Nazis invaded in May 1940. In the escape, they left behind their home, a hotel outside Antwerp, their dog, and most of their possessions. They drove through German-occupied France in a Buick with another Jewish family. After some time in Marseille, they travelled by sea to Morocco, where they spent many months waiting for visas and passage to the United States. To get by in France and Africa, my grandfather sold precious gems. An American cousin of my grandmother's, a graduate of Harvard Law School, submitted the paperwork needed to secure my family visas to enter the United States. After the visas were approved, the refugees travelled by ship from North Africa to New York City in late 1941. Coming home from his first day of kindergarten, my father announced to his German-speaking parents "now we speak English!"

From Michal Freedhoff, OCSPP/IO:



My first cousin wrote this piece about her mother (my aunt).

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/alone-but-not->

[apart/?fbclid=IwAR06gqr3oJl6ZIkAK9uTTcbgYeJK4CmJswooarRNbVfGejNhAER5IMEvI3g](https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/alone-but-not-apart/?fbclid=IwAR06gqr3oJl6ZIkAK9uTTcbgYeJK4CmJswooarRNbVfGejNhAER5IMEvI3g)

Here is the story, as told on my cousin's Facebook post: Tomorrow night is Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. This photo of our mother, taken last week in Israel, is the ultimate example of "MeAvdut LeCherut" or from Slavery to Freedom. 78 years ago, our mother, Sylvia Karwaser Goodman, was 2 years old and her parents, Srulek and Getty Karwaser, Z'L, living in Belgium, were petrified that she would be taken away together with them. Feeling that they had little choice, they trusted a non-Jewish woman in their neighbourhood who took in Sylvia, along with approximately 24 other children, along with the valuables of those families for "safe-keeping." She called the SS, who came into the house and gave all the children candies, which turned out to be poison. Sylvia, who was a very picky child, and ate nothing green, but was brought up to be very polite, quietly slipped the candy into the petticoat of her skirt. Immediately, the other 24 children perished, and the woman called our grandparents to pick up their daughter, whom "she did not want anymore." Very fortunately, their landlords, Alida and Charles Pontus, Z'L, since recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, offered to hide Sylvia, and she lived with them in hiding as their grandchild for 2.5 years. Needless to say, our mother has never eaten a green candy since that time, until this photo was taken.

This past week on Pesach (Passover), we had the great Zchut (privilege) for our mother, Sylvia, to join our family as we celebrated Noam and Elana's son, Zachary's Bar Mitzvah in Israel. At the Kotel (the Western Wall) on Thursday morning of Chol Hamoed (the middle 4 days of the 7 days of Passover), our mother began to feel weak, and a relative gave her the only candy she had, a green lollipop. What saved her life 78 years ago by true miracle and intervention of G-d now came full circle, and in the Holiest place on Earth, at the Kotel, she was reinvigorated by a similar green candy, this time, to watch her grandson have an Aliyah to the Torah at the Kotel, and for her son and grandsons to bless her and the entire Jewish People with Birkat Kohanim (highest blessing). May our mother, Sylvia, go "MeChayil LeChayil" from Strength to Strength, and may we continue to have the Zchut to celebrate Smachot (happy events) together in good health for years to come. At this time, we think of the millions of Jews who were slaughtered, and the many Survivors, including our grandparents, who embodied strength and love and pride in their Judaism. Am Yisrael Chai (the People of Israel live on)!

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